



Robert Keenan Winery

1999 Napa Valley Mernet Reserve

For a number of years consumers and members of the wine trade have urged Keenan to produce a proprietary red blend... So we did. Blending trials began in June of 2001, with separate lots of 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot; it didn't take long to decide upon the two lots that fit together. The favored Cabernet Sauvignon was produced from grapes grown in Oakville, and shows immense structure, dark inky hues, and complex, robust flavors. The Merlot was grown in the Napa Carneros region and supplies soft velvety texture with concentrated ripe berry nuances in the nose.

This marriage of two varietals is deemed "Mernet" (Mare-nay) by winery president, Michael Keenan. The name stems from the two facets of the blend — Mer(lot) and (Caber)net, with each wine supplying what the other may have lacked.

The finished wine is a beautifully balanced, full-bodied red wine, that will radiate impressive flavors and aromas for many years to come.

Reviews:

"Brawny and austere, with a formidable tannic backbone and loads of black-berry, black cherry, herb and black olive flavors. Concentration lingers, along with cedar and vanilla notes from toasty oak. Firm tannins will benefit from short-term cellaring. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2004 through 2012."

--James Laube, Wine Spectator Weekly 91 Points

"Pure cherry fruit fills this stylish red, the flavors firm, elevated on the palate, complete if not complex. The deeply scented red fruit comes through solid, round and generous, ready to enjoy with prime rib."

Wine & Spirits 91 Points

Wine Data:

Alcohol:	13.5%
Total Acidity:	0.59 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.44
Aging Regimen:	60% New French and American oak barrels. 28 months in the barrel
Bottling Date:	May 28, 2002
Production:	300 cases